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(54) Title: SOLVENT FOR CHROMOGENIC SUBSTRATE SOLUTION

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a non-toxic dipolar solvent for chromogenic substrate for detecting presence of lacZ gene and/or gene activity, which comprises a stabilizing amount of a solubilizing agent. The present invention also relates to a method for inducing lac operon in screening assay, comprising the step of contacting an agar plate with at least one essential oil in a concentration sufficient to induce the lac operon. The present invention further relates to a method for detecting the presence of bacteria, comprising the step of contacting an agar plate with at least one essential oil in a concentration sufficient to induce detection of the bacteria.

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